

Claims

1. Process for the preparation of restructured meat, comprising the following successive operations:

- fragmenting a muscle, preferably warm (before rigor mortis) into pieces,

- forming blocks from pieces whose surface has first been cooled,

- slicing the blocks in a direction perpendicular to their length to obtain ultrathin layers,

- restructuring into pieces of meat by assembly of the ultrathin layers in a non-destructive shaping operation to obtain the layered texture,

—) characterized in that the ultrathin layers have a surface on the average greater than 10 cm².

2. Process according to claim 1,

characterized in that said pieces, obtained at the end of the fragmentation phase, have the shape of plates having a surface of from 5 to 500 cm² and a thickness of 5 to 30 mm.

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3. Process according to claim 2,
characterized in that the formation of the blocks takes place within a mold (4) in which the fragmented meat is compressed by an actuator (41).

4. Process according to claim 3,
characterized in that the introduction of the fragmented meat into the mold (4) takes place such that the plates of meat are arranged flat against each other perpendicular to the axis of movement of the piston.

a 5. Process according to ^{claim 2} ~~one of claims 2 to 4~~,
characterized in that the slicing of the blocks takes place ^{equidistantly perpendicular to length} parallel to the principal faces of the meat plates.

a 6. Process according to ^{claim 1} ~~one of the preceding claims~~,
characterized in that the slicing takes place by means of a rotating disc moved in circular translation through the block secured to a circular turning plate, the disc turning in a direction opposite the plate.

a 7. Process according to ^{claim 1} ~~one of the preceding claims~~,
characterized in that after the slicing operation,

the layers fall into a hopper (4) whose bottom is constituted

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by a first door (P_1) controlling the inlet to an air lock (S) in which is sequentially carried out a vacuum, the outlet of this air lock (S) being controlled by a second door (P_2) giving access to the device for forming under vacuum (9).

8. Process according to claim 7,

characterized in that the control of said doors (P_1 , P_2) is alternate, the vacuum being applied to the air lock only when the inlet door (P_1) is closed whilst the outlet door (P_2) is open.

9. Process according to ^{claim 1} ~~one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~,

^{2 tubes} characterized in that the operation of forming ^{towards} place in an extrusion tunnel comprising at least one helicoidal screw (20, 21).

10. Process according to claim 9,

characterized in that the extrusion tunnel comprises two helicoidal screws (20, 21) with parallel axes separated from each other such that the screws inscribe substantially tangent cylinders, the helical blades of these screws being reversed relative to each other.

11. Process according to ^{claim 1} ~~one of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~,

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